

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

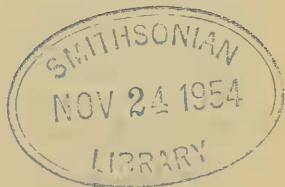
Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 298

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of a type species for the nominal genus *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera) in harmony with accustomed nomenclatorial practice



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 298

A. The Officers of the Commission

Honorary Life President : Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts. England*).

President : (Vacant).

Vice-President : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*).

Secretary : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*).

B. The Members of the Commission

(*arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*).

Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*S. Paulo, Brazil*) (*Vice-President*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. R. DYMOND (*University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. Chester BRADLEY (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (28th March 1944).

Professor Harold E. VOKES (*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.*) (23rd April 1944).

Dr. William Thomas CALMAN (*Coulsdon, Surrey, England*) (1st January 1947).

Professor Béla HANKÓ (*Békéscsaba, Hungary*) (1st January 1947).

Dr. Norman R. STOLL (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (1st January 1947).

Professor H. BOSCHMA (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (1st January 1947).

Senor Dr. Angel CABRERA (*Eva Peron, F.C.N.G.R., Argentina*) (27th July 1948)

Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (*Secretary*) (27th July 1948).

Dr. Joseph PEARSON (*Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*) (27th July 1948)

Dr. Henning LEMCHE (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) (27th July 1948)

Professor Teiso ESAKI (*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*) (17th April 1950).

Professor Pierre BONNET (*Université de Toulouse, France*) (9th June 1950).

Mr. Norman Denbigh RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (9th June 1950).

Professor Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Department of Systematic Zoology, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland*) (15th June 1950)

Professor Robert MERTENS (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M., Germany*) (5th July 1950).

Professor Erich Martin HERING (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*) (5th July 1950).

OPINION 298

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF A TYPE SPECIES FOR THE NOMINAL GENUS "CAPSUS" FABRICIUS, 1803 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER HEMIPTERA) IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED NOMENCLATORIAL PRACTICE

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, (a) all type selections for the nominal genus *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and (b) the nominal species *Cimex ater* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby designated to be the type species of the foregoing genus.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 734 : *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803 (gender : masculine) (type species, by designation, under the Plenary Powers, under (1) above : *Cimex ater* Linnaeus, 1758).

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 143 :—*ater* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cimex ater* (specific name of the type species of *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803, as designated, under the Plenary Powers, under (1) above).

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 8th February 1946 Dr. W. E. China (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) submitted an application to the Commission for the designation, under the Plenary Powers, of a

type species for the genus *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera) in harmony with current nomenclatorial usage. This application was slightly revised in June 1948 and for the reasons explained in paragraph 3 below was further revised in 1950. The application so revised, which was received on 22nd September 1950, was as follows :—

**Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to vary the type species of
“*Capsus*” Fabricius, 1803 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera)
in order to validate existing nomenclatorial practice**

By W. E. CHINA, Sc.D.

(Deputy Keeper, Department of Entomology, British Museum
(Natural History), London)

The object of the present application is to seek the help of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in preventing the confusion which would inevitably arise if the *Règles* were strictly applied in the case of the generic name *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803 (*Syst. Rhynch.* : 241) (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera).

2. The relevant facts are as follows : The genus *Capsus* Fabricius, as recognised by the majority of hemipterists, is based upon the species included in it by Fabricius as *Capsus ater* (= *Cimex ater* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 447). This species is treated as the type species of this genus, Reuter, Kirkaldy and other authors having claimed that Fabricius himself so designated this species in 1803. Fabricius did not, however, designate any type species in the work under consideration and it is necessary therefore to ascertain which of the species included in this genus in 1803 was first subsequently selected as the type species of the genus.

3. The first type selection made for this genus was that made by Latreille in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Crust. Arach. Ins.* : 433), the species so selected being cited as *Cimex spissicornis* Fabr., i.e., the species originally described as *Cimex spissicornis* Fabricius, 1777 (*Gen. Ins.* : 300). The species so named is currently accepted as being identical with *Cimex meriopterus* Scopoli, 1763 (*Ent. carn.* : 131).

4. The acceptance of this species as the type species of the genus *Capsus* Fabricius would involve the transfer of the well-known generic name *Capsus* from the sub-family now known as CAPSINAE to the sub-family now known as CYLLECORINAE, the introduction of the name MIRINAE for the sub-family now known as CAPSINAE, and the replacement of the genus *Capsus*, as at present understood, by the genus *Rhopalotomus* Fieber, 1858 (*Wien. ent. Monats.* 2 : 307).

5. The acceptance of the foregoing changes would undoubtedly lead, at the generic level, to greater confusion than uniformity. Further, such a change in the meaning to be attached to the generic name *Capsus* would involve the loss of a group name based upon the name of this genus. This would be very regrettable since the term "Capsid" for the family is well established among economic entomologists in Britain. In order to prevent the confusion which would follow the strict application of the *Règles* in this case, I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers :—

(a) to set aside all selections of type species for the genus *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803, made prior to the proposed decision ;

(b) to designate *Cimex ater* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) to place the generic name *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803 (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers, as proposed in (1) (b) above : *Cimex ater* Linnaeus, 1758) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* (gender of generic name : masculine);

(3) to place the trivial name *ater* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binominal combination *Cimex ater*, on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. *Registration of the present application:* On the receipt in February 1946 of Dr. China's preliminary communication, the case of the generic name *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803, was given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 211.

3. *Publication of the present application:* Owing to the limited amount of time available, it was not possible for the International Commission at its Session held in Paris in 1948 to consider all the cases then awaiting attention, and the present application was one of those which for this reason was not placed before the Commission at that Session. In the period immediately following, it was necessary to devote the entire resources of the Commission to the preparation and publication of the Official Records of the Paris Session, and it was not until the autumn of 1950 that it was possible to resume preparations for the publication in the *Bulletin*

of *Zoological Nomenclature* of applications on individual nomenclatorial cases submitted to the Commission for decision. The establishment by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, of an *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* (then styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*) called for a slight expansion of the application relating to the present case. The application so revised was received on 22nd September 1950, and was at once sent to the printer. Publication took place on 20th April 1951 (China, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 103—104).

4. *Issue of Public Notices*: Under the revised arrangements approved by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 20th April 1951, both in Part 4 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, the Part in which Dr. China's application was published, and also to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, Notices were issued to a number of entomological serial publications, both in Europe and America. The publication of these Notices elicited no objection to the action proposed.

5. *Support received for Dr. China's application*: Letters of support for Dr. China's application were received from the following specialists :—(a) Dr. S. v. Kéler (*Chief of the Hemiptera Department, Zoologisches Museum der Universität Berlin*) ; (b) Dr. J. C. M. Carvalho (*Universidade do Brasil, Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil*). The communications so received are given in the immediately following paragraphs.

6. *Support received from Dr. S. v. Kéler (Zoologisches Museum der Universität Berlin)*: On 18th May 1951, Dr. S. v. Kéler (*Chief of the Hemiptera Department, Zoologisches Museum der Universität Berlin*) wrote the following letter in support of the present application (Kéler, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 338) :—

Nach Kenntnisnahme und Ueberprüfung der Belange zu dem im 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2(4) :. 103—104, veröffentlichten Antrag von

W. E. China über die Bestimmung von *Cimex ater* Linnaeus, 1758, als Typus der Gattung *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803, erkläre ich, dass ich den Antrag in allen Punkten unterstütze.

7. *Support received from Dr. J. C. M. Carvalho (Universidade do Brasil, Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)*: On 18th September 1951, Dr. J. C. M. Carvalho (*Universidade do Brasil, Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil*) wrote the following letter in support of the present application (Carvalho, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 179) :—

As I mentioned to you at Amsterdam, this letter is being written to support Dr. China's proposal for the International Commission to use its Plenary Powers to vary the type species of the genus *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803 (China, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 103—104).

The proposal is very desirable and will help considerably the specialists working in the Hemiptera.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

8. *Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(52)15*: On 15th April 1952, a Voting Paper (V.P.(52)15) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, the proposal "relating to *Capsus* Fabricius, 1803, as specified in Points (1) to (3) on page 104 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. the Points specified in paragraph 5 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

9. *The prescribed Voting Period*: As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the prescribed Voting Period closed on 15th July 1952.

10. *Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)15*: The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)15 at the close of the prescribed Voting Period was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following seventeen (17) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received)*:

Hering ; Calman ; Riley ; Dymond ; Esaki ; Pearson ;
do Amaral ; Hankó ; Bonnet ; Mertens ; Lemche ;
Vokes ; Cabrera ; Bradley ; Boschma ; Stoll ; Hemming ;

(b) *Negative Votes*:

None ;

(c) *Voting Paper V.P.(52)15 was not returned by one (1) Commissioner*:

Jaczewski.

11. *Declaration of Result of Vote* : On 16th July 1952, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(52)15, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 10 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

12. On 8th March 1954, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(52)15.

13. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

ater, Cimex, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 447
Capsus Fabricius, 1803, *Syst. Rhyng.* : 241

14. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

15. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

16. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Two Hundred and Ninety-Eight (298) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Seventh day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

